

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-11. CANCELED.

12. (Original) A medical apparatus for dispensing a biologically active compound, comprising:

a sleeve, wherein (1) said sleeve has a working channel defined therein through which medical instruments may be advanced, (2) said sleeve includes a fluid delivery channel which is distinct from said working channel, and (3) said fluid delivery channel has an exit; and

a housing secured to said sleeve, said housing having an interior void defined therein for receiving said biologically active compound, wherein said interior void is in fluid communication with said exit through said fluid delivery channel such that said biologically active compound may be delivered through said fluid delivery channel to an outer surface of said sleeve.

13. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a trocar assembly including a cannula and a trocar, wherein:

said trocar assembly is positionable between a first trocar assembly position and a second trocar assembly position,

said trocar assembly is located within said working channel of said sleeve when said trocar assembly is positioned at said first trocar assembly position, and

said trocar assembly is completely removed from said working channel of said sleeve when said trocar assembly is positioned at said second trocar assembly position.

14. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
said fluid delivery channel is defined in a wall of said sleeve.

15. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 14, wherein:
said fluid delivery channel includes a groove defined in a surface of said sleeve.

16. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
said sleeve further includes a number of sealing members extending therefrom.

17. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 12, wherein:
said housing is integrally formed with said sleeve.

18-31. CANCELED.

32. (Withdrawn) A minimally invasive medical apparatus for dispensing a biologically active compound, comprising:

a trocar assembly including a cannula and an elongated trocar having a closed converging tip at a distal end thereof and a fluid delivery channel, wherein (1) said cannula has a working channel defined therein through which medical instruments may be advanced, (2) said fluid delivery channel is distinct from said working channel, and (3) said fluid delivery channel including a groove defined about said cannula, an inlet, and an exit communicating with an outer surface of said cannula;

said inlet being in fluid communication with said exit through said fluid delivery channel, whereby said biologically active compound may be delivered through said fluid delivery channel to said outer surface of said cannula.

33. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

said trocar is positionable between a first trocar position and a second trocar position,

said trocar is positioned within said working channel of said cannula when said trocar is positioned at said first trocar position, and

said trocar is completely removed from said working channel of said cannula when said trocar is positioned at said second trocar position.

34. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

said fluid delivery channel is defined in a wall of said cannula.

35. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:
a sponge material disposed in said groove.

36. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 32 further comprising:
a valve in fluid communication with said working channel, said valve being positionable between an open position and a closed position such that (i) when said valve is located in said open position a gas can be advanced into said working channel and (ii) when said valve is located in said closed position said gas is prevented from being advanced into said working channel.

37. (Withdrawn) A minimally invasive medical apparatus for dispensing a biologically active compound, comprising:

a trocar assembly including a cannula and an elongated trocar having a closed converging tip at a distal end thereof and a fluid delivery channel, wherein (1) said cannula has a working channel defined therein through which medical instruments may be advanced, (2) said fluid delivery channel is distinct from said working channel, and (3) said fluid delivery channel including a groove defined adjacent an inner or an outer surface of said cannula, an inlet, and an exit communicating with the outer surface of said cannula;

said inlet being in fluid communication with said exit through said fluid delivery channel, whereby said biologically active compound may be delivered through said fluid delivery channel to said outer surface of said cannula.

38. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 37, wherein:

said trocar is positionable between a first trocar position and a second trocar position,

said trocar is positioned within said working channel of said cannula when said trocar is positioned at said first trocar position, and

said trocar is completely removed from said working channel of said cannula when said trocar is positioned at said second trocar position.

39. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 37, wherein:

said fluid delivery channel is defined in a wall of said cannula.

40. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:

a sponge material disposed in said groove.

41. (Withdrawn) The medical apparatus of claim 37 further comprising:

a valve in fluid communication with said working channel, said valve being positionable between an open position and a closed position such that (i) when said valve is located in said open position a gas can be advanced into said working channel and (ii) when said valve is located in said closed position said gas is prevented from being advanced into said working channel.